

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/615,240

Examiner

Adrienne C. Johnstone

Applicant(s)

KURAMORI ET AL.

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 27 December 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-5, 9, and 10 (new claims 5, 6, 3, 4, 1, and 2).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 020405.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1733

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Dutton on February 4, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims

claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten to provide proper antecedent basis as --

2. (currently amended) A vehicle including a tire/wheel assembly in which a run-flat support member is disposed in a cavity of a pneumatic tire fitted to a rim of a wheel, the run-flat support member including a circular shell, an outer circumferential side of which is a support surface and an inner circumferential side of which is opened to have two leg portions, and left and right elastic rings which support the two leg portions on the rim,

wherein the elastic rings have different rigidities from each other so that the elastic ring receiving a larger load during run-flat traveling has a higher rigidity, and

wherein, among the left and right elastic rings, the elastic ring on an outer side of [a] the vehicle [when fitted to the vehicle] has a higher rigidity than that of the elastic ring on an inner side of the vehicle.

3. (currently amended) The vehicle including a tire/wheel assembly according to claim 2, wherein the support surface of the circular shell has at least two convexly curved surfaces with substantially the same radius of curvature.

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Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Kuramori et al. (6,805,176 B2), which does not qualify as prior art against the instant claims, is cited of interest for disclosing a run-flat support similar to the claimed run-flat support but wherein the increased rigidity of one side with respect to the other is accomplished by providing the support surface with a plurality of convex portions in cross-section each having different radii of curvature and/or thicknesses, the reference being silent as to the relative rigidities of the elastic rings. The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest applicants' vehicle including a tire/wheel assembly run-flat support member having the particular elastic ring rigidity higher on the outer side of the vehicle than on the inner side of the vehicle in the claimed environment; the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest applicants' run-flat support member having the particular support surface with at least two convexly curved surfaces with different radii of curvature, the elastic ring on the side of the convexly curved surface with the smaller radius of curvature having the higher rigidity, in the claimed environment; and the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest applicants' run-flat support member having the particular elastic ring on one side with a rigidity 10 to 100% higher than that of the elastic ring on the other side in the claimed environment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adrienne C. Johnstone whose telephone number is (571)272-1218. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30AM-7:00PM.

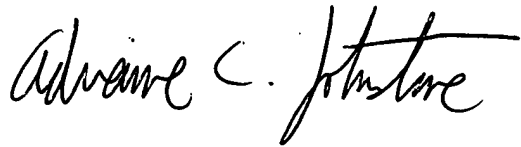
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on (571)272-1156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1733

Adrienne Johnstone

February 5, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne C. Johnstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.